GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2326
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
HOUSING PROJECTS FOR KARGIL MARTYRS AND ECONOMICALLY WEAKER SECTIONS IN DWARKA AND ROHINI
C. KUPPUSAMI;M.V.V.S MURTHI;RAGHUNATH JHA;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `fraud alleged in DDA Housing Projects` appearing in `The Hindustan Times` dated February 12, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for awarding contract, more than the cost quoted by registered constractors of DDA;

(d) whether his ministry has asked for a detailed report from the DDA regarding its housing projects for the families of kargil martyrs and economically weaker sections in Dwarka and Rohini;

(e) if so, the details of the report submitted by DDA;

(f) whethr the report and project of DDA were examined by the experts of his Ministry;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to conduct a CBI inquiry in this regard;

(i) if not, the rasons therefor;

(j) whether the structure of the buildings would be made earthquake proof; and

(k) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Government are aware of the said news-item. Detailed report has been obtained from the DDA in this respect.

(c)to(k): DDA have informed that Hollow Block Tecnology is a new technology which has been introcuded to encourage alternate building materials and also keeping in view the shortage of bricks in Delhi. Due to closure of brick kilns in Delhi, it is difficult to get standard quality bricks in huge quantity for mass construction. Also, the Hollow Block Technology is well established in advanced countries. DDA has taken an initiative to bring this technology in a safe and sound manner.

DDA have informed that before adopting this technology in mass housing construction, it had undertaken a pilot project as a part of research and development scheme a t Vasant Kunj associating Indian Institute of Technology t o finalise the standards and specifications. The behaviour of these pilot houses was observed before going in for other projects. The DDA have informed that for Rohini and Dwarka projects, the Indian Institute of Technology was associated as a consultant for structural designing and quality check.

Keeping in view that the design of this project was done by using Hollow Block Technology, limited number of people have responded to tenders and as the tenders were not invited for construction involving conventional technology, it is misconceived that tenders were given at cost quoted more by the registered contractors. The tenders, as per DDA, were called after having wide publicity and as per procedure laid down in DDA.

As far as delay is concerned, the DDA have informed that these delays were caused due to this being a new technology, work involved in import and installation of sophisticated, computerized and fully automatic cement concrete hollow block manufacturing plants, land problems, shortage of stipulated materials, problems relating to stone crusher and other operational and maintenance problems in the imported manufacturing equipments for the plant.

DDA have also informed that the Hollow Block Technology is different from the pre-fabricated technology and all the quality design, structure and aesthetic has been done as per specified codes and building laws. They have also informed that houses at Rohini and

Dwarka are safe and earthquake resistant within the parameters prevalent in IS Codes.

Since the IIT had been fully associated with the project from the very beginning, the Government do not deem it necessary to refer it to the CBI for investigation.

IIT had been fully associated from the very beginning, necessary provisions against earthquake forces have been incorporated in the design as per the latest I.S. Codes for Delhi region for earthquake resistant buildings.